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Working to stop pet euthanasia in Australian Pounds

Date: September 2008

Steve Coleman,
CEO, RSPCA NSW

Dear Steve

The Australian No Kill movement and the 3rd National Summit to End Pet Over-population on the Gold Coast, September 2009

In May we attended the 2009 No Kill Conference in Washington. We spent 2 days hearing about recent and current developments in the successful strategies to end shelter killing of healthy animals.

We left with a good understand of the history, progress to date and the challenges that need to be overcome in order to influence and inspire more and more government and animal charity groups to understand and accept that the killing of healthy animals in pounds and shelters is unnecessary today and has an end in sight.

In the US, the No Kill movement believes that if the current accelerating progress continues, then unnecessary shelter killing of the vast majority of healthy animals will end by 2015.

We also left with the view that we in Australia are far behind the modern day progress being made in the US. The fact that there were only 3 Australian attendees at this important conference – none from any of the large charity groups or government- perhaps indicates that the No Kill movement is not receiving the attention here that it deserves.

This has to change, and we believe that public opinion will force the change.

I'm sure you have heard of Nathan Winograd. He is the author of the book Redemption, (which by now should be standard reading for all animal welfare charity management and staff), and he is the inspirational leader of the No Kill movement in the US today.

You may also have heard that he is attending the National Summit to End Pet Overpopulation on the Gold Coast at the end of this month. He will be giving an important key note speech and conducting a workshop on the third day. I believe you may have already received an invitation from the Conference organisers on this matter.

Whilst Deathrowpets is not involved in the organisation of the Gold Coast conference, we wholeheartedly endorse the value of you and senior managers from your organisation in attending the conference specifically to hear Nathan Winograd speak and to attend his working session.

Having heard Nathan speak in Washington, we are totally confident that you and your organisation would gain great value in attending, and learning first-hand how **leadership from the senior management** of charity animal welfare groups is one of the most important ingredients in developing the No Kill journey.



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From what we learnt in Washington, we see no reason whatsoever why the No Kill movement should not gain traction here in Australia, but we believe that your organisation could and should show leadership in this important matter.

If you have any hesitancy in attending the conference, and Nathan Winograd's sessions (in particular: Reforming Animal Management - A Discussion for CEO's, Managers and Leaders of Pounds and Shelters) can we urge you to put these aside and invest a few short days to attend in person.

As the strategies we observed are so obvious, simple and practical, we would struggle to understand how a major animal welfare group in Australia would hesitate to adopt them and make them a standard operating procedure.

Finally I would add that that we see a time in the not too distant future, as in the US, where increasingly, the majority of charity dollars will flow to those organisations that demonstrate that they support and are part of the No Kill movement here in Australia.

And we certainly look forward with others to raise public awareness in this regard and making it a reality.

We are sure you will enjoy Nathan's significant contribution to companion animal welfare in Australia.

With regards,

Paul Archer

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Please reply to info@deathrowpets.net

PS, if you have any personal views on the No Kill movement, or your own organisations attitude or progress this far towards it, please do write and let us know as we are keen to support such initiatives.

Out of courtesy, we advise that this letter will be published in our information update section to our readership.

The 2009 3rd National Summit to End Companion Animal Overpopulation will be held September 30 - October 02 at the Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast.

From National Desexing Network: "We are pleased to announce the registration and program papers for the 3rd National Summit to End Companion Animal Overpopulation are now available at the following link

<http://www.ndn.org.au/files/SummitPack.pdf>